

Board of Selectmen  
Extension 109  
Town Administrator  
Extension 109  
Town Accountant  
Extension 120  
Town Clerk  
Extension 114  
Tax Collector  
Extension 113  
Treasurer  
Extension 112 or 110  
Board of Assessors  
Extension 111  
Land Use Office  
Extension 117  
Planning Board  
Extension 121  
Conservation Commission  
Extension 115



## **TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM**

*Town Hall, 32 Main Street  
Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430*

*OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR*

Animal Control  
Board of Health  
Building Commission  
Conservation Commission  
Council on Aging  
Cultural Council  
Electrical Inspector  
Gas & Plumbing Inspector  
Historical Commission  
Municipal Planning  
Parks & Recreation  
Planning Board  
Zoning Board of Appeals

**PHONE:** (978)-827-4100

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## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT September 3, 2013**

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

### **TOWN COMMITTEES**

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (3) Council on Aging Board, (1) Board of Assessors, (1) Advisory Board and (4) Cable Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

Per the recommendation of the Agricultural Commission I ask the Board to vote to appoint Gary Howland to the Agricultural Commission.

### **FALL TOWN MEETING**

Request that the Board vote to open a warrant for a Special Town Meeting to be held on October 29, 2013. I would also like to have the Board set a closing date for submission of articles of October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

### **VMS BUILDING**

I am waiting for an Asbestos Removal Plan from our engineering company. This is required prior to getting estimates and was a part of the contract for the VMS analysis.

### **FIRE**

Request that the Board sign the Memorandum of Understanding for a one-year contract with the Firefighter Association.

### **ROAD PAVING**

The reclamation and paving of Dunn Road started on August 26th. Lake Road from Sherbet to East Rindge will follow. There is \$174,391 remaining in the Chapter 90 \$300M appropriation that the Governor is refusing to release due to funding questions. I have contacted Senator Brewer's office to ask him as well as his fellow legislators to get the Governor to release these funds. This has a major effect on our roads program.

### **WATER LINE PROJECT**

Tighe & Bond and Weston and Sampson presented proposals to the Water and Sewer Commissioners on August 13, 2013. The Commission reviewed each proposal and voted at their August 27th meeting to select Tighe & Bond as the engineering firm. Hopefully, there will be enough progress on the project to include funding and grant opportunities to have an article on the fall town meeting.

## **PILOT**

The Pilot agreement with Ashburnham Solar (Tenk Energy) is at its final stages. Due to a merger that is happening very soon the new owner "Investry LLC" wants to hold off signing the PILOT until the merger goes through.

## **ASHBURNHAM BUSINESS COUNCIL**

On August 20<sup>th</sup> I attended the ABC meeting which included the wrap-up of Downtown Day and discussions about amending the Merger Agreement with Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce, and the Council's Structure. The ABC holds meetings every third Tuesday of the month.

Downtown Day- There is a belief that if they could expand the event to the Main Street area they could get better participation from businesses on Main Street. They have requested that the Selectmen look to allow the closing of Main Street for the day.

Council believes that there needs to be more involvement by the area businesses, but to do that the Council needs to offer more. They are looking to ask businesses to come to a meeting, learn about what they do, and give feedback so that the Council can not only support local activities but become a vital source of support to the local businesses.

## **LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

In March of this year, our Town Accountant while processing the warrant noticed an irregularity in the Librarian's reimbursement request. When the Librarian was questioned about the discrepancies, the Accountant did not receive a satisfactory answer. The Accountant approached Chairman of the BOS Ed Vitone and myself. I contacted Town Labor Counsel to discuss the issue. Town Counsel laid out a specific approach and steps required to ensure a proper investigation was conducted. The Library Trustees Chair Paula Dowd and the Trustees themselves did exactly as proscribed by Counsel. In the end, the Trustees decided not to pursue the matter any further and although the cost was nearly \$20,000 it was important that any allegations of possible improprieties by employees be investigated to the fullest.

## **OIL PRICES**

This year I have selected to go off the State bid list for number 2 heating oil. Our fuel provider is the same as last year - East River Energy. Price is determined by the Daily Fuel Index, which is currently \$2.8396 there is a \$.1744 delivery charge for a total \$3.014 per gallon. Last year's cost was \$3.1599.

## **ACCOUNTANT**

Tanya's office has been moved to the back office of the Assessor's.

## **RETIREMENT HEALTH INSURANCE**

At the last Annual Town Meeting the Town voted to allow retirees access to the health care on a 50/50 contribution basis. From that we will need to establish eligibility requirements for retirees.

1. To be eligible to continue health insurance after retirement, an employee must be eligible to receive a pension through either the Massachusetts Teachers Association Retirement or the Worcester County Retirement System,
2. He or she was an employee of the Town of Ashburnham on the day prior to retirement

I will be working with Edd Byrnes our insurance advisor to develop something for the Board to review.